

Message Text

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PAGE 01 TEHRAN 04777 310436Z
ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 AF-10 ISO-00 CIAE-00 DODE-00 PM-04 H-02
INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 NSC-05 PA-02 PRS-01 SP-02
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R 310302Z MAY 77
FM AMEMBASSY TEHRAN
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2840
INFO AMEMBASSY ABIDJAN

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E.O.11652: N/A
TAGS: PFOR, IV, IR
SUBJ: HOUPHOUET BOIGNY VISITS IRAN

1. IVORY COAST PRESIDENT AND MRS. FELIX HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY PAID A FOUR DAY OFFICIAL VISIT TO IRAN DURING THE PERIOD MAY 24-28. WHILE IN IRAN THE PRESIDENT AND HIS WIFE WERE GUESTS OF HONOR AT A BANQUET GIVEN BY THE SHAH, HAD LUNCH WITH PRIME MINISTER HOVEYDA AND VISITED PROVINCIAL CITIES, ISFAHAN AND SHIRAZ. THEY ALSO MET WITH PRINCESS ASHRAF WHO HAD VISITED THE IVORY COAST IN 1976. A FINAL COMMUNIQUE ANNOUNCED THAT THE SHAH AND EMPRESS ACCEPTED AN INVITATION TO VISIT THE IVORY COAST "ON A DATE TO BE SET LATER".

2. THE VISIT RECEIVED USUAL FRONT-PAGE TREATMENT IN LOCAL PRESS ALTHOUGH LITTLE OF SUBSTANCE APPEARED IN NEWSPAPERS. AT MAY 24 BANQUET SHAH REPEATED HIS OFT-STRESSED THEME THAT IRAN'S AFRICAN POLICY FAVORED MAJORITY RULE AND THE COMPLETE ERADICATION OF IMPERIALISM AND COLONIALISM. SHAH CHARACTERIZED AFRICA AS "THE CONTINENT OF TOMORROW" BECAUSE OF IT VAST NATURAL AND HUMAN RESOURCES. KAYHAN INTERNATIONAL MAY 25 EDITORIAL WAS LESS EUPHORIC, SAYING SHAH'S VISION FOR AFRICA "MAY STILL APPEAR A LONG WAY OFF".

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3. JOINT COMMUNIQUE ISSUED AT CLOSE OF VISIT REFERRED TO DISCUSSION OF INTERNATIONAL ISSUES AND BILATERAL COOPERATION BETWEEN THE TWO COUNTRIES. ONLY DECISIONS ANNOUNCED PUBLICLY WERE ESTABLISHMENT OF EMBASSIES IN EACH CAPITAL (AT PRESENT IRAN'S AMBASSADOR IN DAKAR IS ACCREDITED CONCURRENTLY TO ABIDJAN); AND A JOINT ECONOMIC COMMISSION FOR ECONOMIC AND

TECHNICAL COOPERATION AT THE MINISTERIAL LEVEL. ONE INTERESTING FACET OF VISIT WAS PRESENCE OF IVORY COAST'S MINISTER FOR WOMEN'S AFFAIRS WHO SAT IN ON MRS. HOUPHOUET BOIGNY'S AUDIENCE WITH EMPRESS FARAH AND ALSO MET WITH PRINCESS ASHRAF, LEADER OF THE WOMEN'S ORGANIZATION OF IRAN.

4.COMMENT: BACKGROUND THEME TO VISIT WAS GOI PERCEPTION THAT HOUPHOUET-BOIGNY IS ONE OF THE OUTSTANDING LEADERS OF A CONTINENT WITH WHICH IRAN IS DEVELOPING STRONG TIES AND WITH WHICH IRANIANS MUST TAKE INCREASING INTEREST.
MIKLOS

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